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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/045,279	01/10/2002	Faisal M. Awada	AUS920010874US1	4483

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EXAMINER

WON, MICHAEL YOUNG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/045,279

Applicant(s)

AWADA ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Y. Won

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the amendment filed November 7, 2005.
2. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-20 have been examined and are pending with this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. (US 6,678,824 B1) in view of Pressman (US 4,246,495).

INDEPENDENT:

As per **claim 1**, Cannon teaches a method of limiting a daily usage of an application program by a user comprising the steps of:

starting a timer upon first execution of the application program by the user on a day (see Fig.4, #324 and col.3, lines 12-14 & 45-48); and

stopping execution of application program (see col.2, lines 49-51 and col.3, lines 3-7 & 62-65) when the timer registers a time equal to a pre-determined time (see col.4, lines 1-5: "and a limit to a length of time" and col.8, lines 14-16).

Cannon does not explicitly teach of resetting the timer the following day.

Pressman teaches of resetting the timer the following day (see col.3, lines 28-30).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ the teachings of Pressman within the method of Cannon by implementing resetting the timer the following day within the method of limiting a daily usage of an application program because the such step would prevent permanent limitation on the application program and not a daily limitation and because Cannon teaches that a "user's log is periodically credited with appropriate credits as determined" (see col.7, lines 20-21).

As per **claim 6**, Cannon teaches a computer program product on a computer readable medium for limiting a daily usage of an application program by a user comprising:

code means for starting a timer upon first execution of the application program by the user on a day (see Fig.4, #324 and col.3, lines 12-14 & 45-48); and

code means for stopping execution of application program (see col.2, lines 49-51 and col.3, lines 3-7 & 62-65) when the timer registers a time equal to a pre-determined time (see col.4, lines 1-5: "and a limit to a length of time" and col.8, lines 14-16).

Cannon does not explicitly teach of a code means for resetting the timer the following day. Pressman teaches a code means for resetting the timer the following day (see claim 1 rejection above).

As per **claim 11**, Cannon teaches an apparatus for limiting a daily usage of an application program by a user comprising:

means for starting a timer upon first execution of the application program by the user on a day (see Fig.4, #324 and col.3, lines 12-14 & 45-48); and

means for stopping execution of the application program (see col.2, lines 49-51 and col.3, lines 3-7 & 62-65) when the timer registers a time equal to a pre-determined time (see col.4, lines 1-5: "and a limit to a length of time" and col.8, lines 14-16).

Cannon does not explicitly teach a means for resetting the timer the following day. Pressman teaches a means for resetting the timer the following day (see claim 1 rejection above).

As per **claim 16**, Cannon teaches a computer system for limiting a daily usage of an application program by a user comprising:

at least one memory device for storing code data (see col.3, lines 21-24); and

at least one processor for processing the code data to start a timer upon first execution of the application program by the user on a day (see Fig.4, #324 and col.3, lines 12-14 & 45-48), and to stop execution of the application program (see col.2, lines 49-51; col.3, lines 3-7) when the timer registers a time equal to a pre-determined time (see col.4, lines 1-5: "and a limit to a length of time" and col.8, lines 14-16).

Cannon does not explicitly teach to reset the timer the following day. Pressman teaches to reset the timer the following day (see claim 1 rejection above).

DEPENDENT:

As per **claims 2, 7, 12, and 17**, which respectively depend on claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, Cannon teaches of further comprising the step of ascertaining whether the user is permitted to use application program before executing the application program (see col.3, lines 62-65 and col.6, lines 13-25).

As per **claims 3, 8, 13, and 18**, which respectively depend on claims 2, 7, 12, and 17, Cannon further teaches wherein the step of ascertaining whether the user is allowed to use the application program further comprises the step of ensuring that there is not a time interval restriction (see col.3, lines 62-65).

As per **claims 4, 9, 14, and 19**, which respectively depend on claims 3, 8, 13, and 18, Cannon teaches of further comprising the step of making sure the time interval has elapsed before the user is allowed use the application program if there is a time interval restriction (inherent; see also col.2, line 66-col.3, line 1).

As per **claims 5, 10, 15, and 20**, which respectively depend on claims 4, 9, 14, and 19, Cannon further teaches wherein the pre-determined time, is determined by an administrator (see col.2, lines 42-48; col.4, lines 59-62; and col.5, lines 44-48).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 and the Cargile reference have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

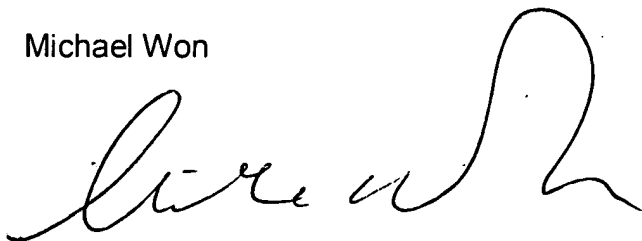
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Y. Won whose telephone number is 571-272-3993. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 7AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Michael Won



December 28, 2005



SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER